(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Sirpur Archaeological Complex

1425. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 1500 year old city, complete with a palace, temples, houses and Buddhist educational centre big enough to accommodate 10,000 students has been discovered at Sirpur, in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Sirpur Archaeological Complex is almost four times as big as Nalanda?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The excavations carried out so far at Sirpur, Distt. Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh, have brought to light remains of an extensive city datable to *circa* 6th-9th century A.D. The city contained, among other things, remains of a large Buddhist monastic complex comprising a sanctum sanctorum, a sixteen pillared hall, and ten monk's cells. The complex has preserved evidence of rich carvings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha, amorous couples, floral and animal designs besides *kirti-mukh* motifs.There was no discovery of a large educational centre capable of accommodating 10,000 students.

(c) Since the excavations at Sirpur are as yet inconclusive, it will not be appropriate to make comparisons with Nalanda.

Setting up of Science City

1426. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of science cities set up/proposed to be set up in the country together with its aim and scope;